

Accomplishments 2005-2011

Center for Scientific Review

National Institutes of Health

More Done With Less

- 50% increase in number of applications reviewed, with same number of staff
- Using fewer reviewers by increasing the number of applications assigned to reviewers by 50%

For Lower Cost

- Saving \$ 35 million/year through innovative use of electronic platforms that reduces travel cost; by providing non-refundable tickets to 20,000 reviewers; and by sending applications and meeting materials electronically rather than papers or CDs
- Taking meetings to the reviewers' home territory by meeting on the West Coast once/year

Of Increasingly Complex Reviews

- Implementing two-stage Editorial Board reviews for complex, multi-disciplinary reviews
- Conducting numerous "special" reviews on behalf of NIH OD including 40,000 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act applications; Transformative R01s; Department of Treasury Small Business program; White House-initiated Robotics review; South African AIDS initiative; Lasker; and, Early Independence applications

While Implementing Major Changes on Behalf of NIH

- Implementing Enhancing Peer Review including shorter applications, new scoring, realigned criteria and summary statement format, ending of A2 submissions
- Dramatically shortening the review cycle
- Inaugurating "Order of review" approach to focus meeting discussion on the most meritorious applications
- Initiating Continuous Submission to incentivize members of study sections and 9000 frequent reviewers for their continued service

With Concurrent CSR Reorganization to Maximize Organizational Efficiency

- Clustering 5 review divisions around similar fields to maximize review coverage and efficiency
- Hiring 5 new Division Directors, half of the 25 IRG Chiefs, and more than 100 SROs
- Conducting ongoing IRG reviews and Open Houses to seek community input for improvements and change the alignment of over 10 study sections yearly to enhance the quality of study section performance

While Conducting Major Outreach to the Peer Review Community

- Conducting over 35 full day orientation sessions for more than 575 new Chairs on Best Practices
- Developing on-line reviewer training including videos, slide sets and links to websites
- Soliciting volunteer reviewers from every society and institution with which CSR has contact
- Providing outreach on peer review philosophy and practices to thousands of colleagues and ministries of dozen countries

- Training new reviewers and deliberately seeking Early Career Reviewers from less research-intensive institutions to expand NIH's pool of reviewers

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